III. REMARKS

1.   Claims 1, 11, 12 and 26 are amended. Claims 28-34 are new.

2.   Claims 1-13, 16 and 19-27 are not unpatentable over "IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration" ("RFC 2462") dated December 1998, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the method includes sending a network address request from a first node to a second node without an interface identifier. Such a feature is not disclosed in RFC2462 since the method disclosed in RFC2462 operates in a completely different way. In RFC2462, the node is responsible for generating the interface address by first sending a Neighbor Solicitation message <u>containing an interface identifier</u> to confirm that the interface identifier is unique. Thus, RFC2462 does not disclose or suggest this feature of Applicant's invention and claim 1 is novel over RFC2462.

RFC2462 describes a method for generating an interface address in IP version 6. A summary of this method is given in paragraph 4 of RFC2462. A node forms a link-local address for an interface by appending the interface identifier to the link-local prefix which is already known by the node. Before the link-local address can be assigned to the interface and be used, a node must attempt to verify that this "tentative" address is not already in use by another node. The node sends a Neighbor Solicitation message containing the tentative address as the target. If another node is already using that address, it will return a Neighbor Advertisement saying so. If another node is also attempting to use the same address, it will send a Neighbor Solicitation for that target as well. Once a node ascertains that its tentative link-local address is unique, it assigns it to

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the interface. At this point, the node has IP-level connectivity with neighboring nodes. Global and site-local addresses are formed by appending an interface identifier to a prefix of appropriate length. Prefixes are obtained from Prefix Information options contained in Router Advertisements. To obtain an advertisement quickly, a host sends one or more Router Solicitations to the all-routers multicast group.

Thus, Applicant's invention as recited in claim 1 is different from RFC2462 in that RFC2462 only discloses sending a Neighbor Solicitation message **including the interface identifier** as a way to check uniqueness. RFC2462 teaches that the interface identifier **must be included** and thus teaches away from the features of Applicant's invention recited in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is not unpatentable over RFC2462.

Claim 26 recites similar subject matter and should also be allowable.

Claims 2-13, 16, 19-25 and 27 should be allowable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

3.   With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is noted that claim 1 recites, on line 3, "establishing an entity." Subsequently, on line 11, claim 1 recites "checking by the entity." Applicant respectfully submits that the claim language is proper and in accordance with U.S. practice. There should not be any antecedent basis issue here.

4.   Claims 11 and 12 are amended to address the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph issues noted.

5. With regard to the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in proper form.

Claim 17 recites a "method according to claim 16" where the network prefix "is obtained" by the means of a router solicitation. Claim 17 further limits the method of claim 16 by defining how the network prefix is obtained. Claim 17 merely indicates how a certain result is achieved as a result of a certain action. Thus, it is submitted that the language and structure of claim 17 is in proper form.
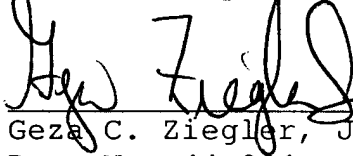
Similarly, claim 18 further limits the method of claim 16 by defining how the network prefix is obtained.

However, should the Examiner continue to have difficulty with the present claim language, in order to expedite the prosecution and allowance process, Applicant would be willing to amend the claims to change the wording order to read "The method of claim 16 further comprising obtaining the network prefix by means of … ." While Applicant maintains that the present claim language is proper, this proposed change may be more grammatically favorable. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if such a change is desired by the Examiner.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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A check in the amount of $2020 is enclosed for a three-month extension of time and the additional claim fees, calculated as follows. For eight (8) extra total claims (8 x $50) and three (3) extra independent claims (3 x $200). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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8 FEB 2005
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